

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-27, which are all of the pending claims, under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the prior art discussed in the Background section of this application in view of U.S. Patent 5,812,768 (Page, et al.).

Applicants herein ask that independent Claims 1, 8, 17, 22 and 26 be amended to more clearly describe the differences between the claims and the prior art. Also, for the reasons set forth below, the rejections of Claims 15, 16, 24 and 25 are respectfully traversed.

As discussed in Applicants' previous Amendment, this invention generally relates to the generation of interfaces to computer programs in different environments. In particular, the invention provides a mapping from a first program written in a first language to a second program written in another language. To do this, the invention generates an interface that handles that mapping, and specifically, the interface translates data types from the first language to the second language, formats data from the first language to the second language, and handles other matters necessary for the sharing of data between different programming environments. This interface is generated using information or data obtained from the first program.

The Background section of this application describes several known tools for sharing data between different programming environments. One tool, CICON, provides access to transaction applications, but does not optimally allow access to all legacy business applications. Another tool, CICS, allows access to COBOL transactions, but uses a static definition of the data to be exchanged.

There are a number of important differences between these prior art tools and the

present invention. For example, with this invention, data is obtained from the first program, such as by scanning that program or parts of it, and that data or information is used to generate the appropriate interface program or code for invoking a transaction with the first program. In contrast, with the procedures discussed in the Background section of the present application, preset interface programs are used to invoke that interaction.

Page, et al. also discloses a procedure in which a preset program is used to invoke the interaction with the first program.

Thus, in contrast with the prior art discussed in the Background section of the application and shown in Page, et al., the present invention does not use pre-supplied interface programs, but instead generates the interface program on the fly.

This feature is of utility because it significantly increases the flexibility of the interfacing procedure. The prior art is limited to using a pre given or pre-supplied interface program, but the present invention can generate an appropriate interface program specifically suited for the particular environment in which the first program is located.

Independent Claims 15 and 24 currently include limitations relating to the above-discussed feature of the invention. Specifically, both of these claims include means for scanning an IMS transaction with the program on the IMS system to produce dynamically a data description of that transaction, and means for using that data description to generate code for invoking the IMS transaction.

As discussed above, neither the prior art discussed in the Background of this application nor Page, et al, discloses or suggests the use of this data in this way – that is, to generate code for invoking the IMS transaction.

Also, Applicants herein ask that independent Claims 1, 8, 17, 22 and 26 be amended to describe the above-discussed feature of the invention. In particular, Claims 1, 8 and 22 are being amended herein to include means for or the step of using results of a scan of an IMS transaction to generate a program interface that is used to invoke the IMS transaction. Similarly, Claim 17 is being amended to describe means for using information obtained from a program on an IMS system to invoke an IMS transaction with that program.

As mentioned above, this feature is of significant utility because it increases the flexibility of the interfacing procedure. That procedure is not limited to one or a number of preset interface programs, but instead can generate those interface programs on the fly to work specifically with a particular program environment.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 8, 15, 17, 22, 24 and 26 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, these Claims, as amended herein, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-7 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 1, and, likewise, Claim 21 incorporates the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 9-14 are dependent from Claim 8 and are allowable therewith; and Claim 16 is dependent from Claim 15 and is allowable therewith. Also, Claims 23, 25 and 27 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claims 22, 24 and 26, respectively. The Examiner is, thus, requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and to allow these claims.

It is noted that the changes requested herein to Claims 1, 8, 17, 22 and 26 only emphasize differences between those claims and the prior art. Moreover, no additional claims are being added by this Amendment. Accordingly, it is believed that entry of this Amendment is appropriate, and such entry is respectfully requested.

For the reasons advanced above, the Examiner is asked to enter this Amendment, and to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and to allow these claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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